

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 16 and 17 are amended and claim 3 is canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives Kip Werking and Daniel Tucker during the January 31, 2008 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

The Office Action rejects claim 1, 2, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Gilboa (U.S. 5,853,327) and claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilboa in view of Schwab (U.S. 5,013,047). These rejections are moot with respect to claims 2 and 3, which are hereby canceled, and traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

The Office Action, on page 4, admits that Gilboa fails to disclose that the correlating area setting unit comprises an area variable unit for making the size of the area in the game space variable. Nevertheless, the Office Action asserts that Schwab supplies the subject matter missing from Gilboa. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Gilboa and Schwab, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a correlating area setting unit for making a size of a correlating area variable, as recited in claim 1.

In Fig. 10, Schwab discloses an internal structure of the video interface of an apparatus for determining the identity and position of game objects. See col. 11, lines 6-15. Video controller 601 may be connected with a video display device 90 or with a monitor. See col. 11, lines 15-22. However, as discussed during the personal interview, video controller 601 merely outputs an appropriate signal to the display device 90 or monitor to display an output to the screen. For example, video controller 601 might send a signal to the video display 90 or monitor to make a certain pixel a certain color. However, sending a signal to a display device or monitor is completely different than varying the size of the area in a game space. For example, in paragraph [0116], the pending application discloses that the fight

controller 222 may decide the size of the fighting area according to game progress, such as the number of enemy characters that the operation-object character has met before going into the fighting mode, or a place where it encounters the enemy character. There is nothing in Fig. 10, or in all of Schwab, which discloses or suggests a correlating area setting unit for making a size of a correlating area variable, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Gilboa and Schwab, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1.

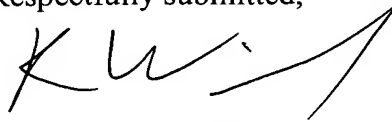
The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilboa in view of Pepper Jr. (U.S. 4,302,011); claims 7, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilboa in view of Toshiyuki (JP 2002-301264); claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilboa in view of Watson (U.S. 5,821,916); and claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilboa in view of Wang (U.S. 7,133,031). However, these applied references do not supply the subject matter missing from Gilboa as discussed above.

In view of the above, Gilboa, Schwab and the other applied references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1. Claims 3-6, 10, 12 and 14 depend from claim 1; claims 9, 11, 13 and 15 depend from claim 7. Thus, Gilboa, Schwab and the other applied references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-17. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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